

Amendment

Claims 1-16 were cancelled and new claims 17-31 have been added herein. The new claims correspond to, and are supported by, the claims in non-elected restriction Group III, original claims 6-16, as set forth by the Examiner in the Office Action dated April 14, 2000, in the parent application 09/362,899.

Conclusion

The amendments above do not add new matter to the application, and their entry is therefore respectfully requested. It is believed that the present application is now in condition for immediate allowance and early notice to such effect is earnestly solicited.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a phone call may help to expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' undersigned attorney at (703) 905-2173.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP

By: Michael A. Sanzo
Michael A. Sanzo
Reg. No. 36,912
Attorneys for Applicants

Date: December 19, 2001
1600 Tysons Boulevard
McLean, VA 22102
(703) 905-2000
MAS/amx
enclosure

Mr. Thomas Canley
703-905-2144